

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 MBFR-04 AID-20 EB-11

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R 111700Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6635

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 5180

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH-MAURITANIA RELATIONS

REFS: MADRID A-85 OF MAY 2, 1973, AND NOUAKCHOTT 261

1. FOLLOWING PARTICIPATION AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS
GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN
SEPTEMBER 10-11. AFTER MEETINGS WITH FRANCO AND FONMIN LOPEZ
RODO IN SAN SEBASTIAN, MOUKNASS FLEW WITH LATTER TO MADRID FOR
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARRERO BLANCO.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN SEBASTIAN SEPTEMBER 10 MOUKNASS
SAID GIRM AGREED WITH SPAIN TO CARRYING OUT UNGA RESOLUTIONS
WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH SAHARA AND WOULD RESPECT DECISION BY
SAHAREN PEOPLE CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE, WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE,
IN SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SPAIN. ALLUDING TO
SPAIN'S TIES WITH AFRICA, MOUKNASS SAID SPAIN SHOULD ACT AS
SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA IN CSCE AND AS A PROMOTER OF PEACE IN
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MEDITERRANEAN AREA. IN THE CONNECTION, HE CITED PRESENCE OF

MILITARY BASES IN CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND OF FLEETS
(UNNAMED) IN MEDITERRANEAN AND ATLANTIC AS FACTORS OF PERMANENT
TENSIONS IN AREA.

3. MOUKNASS ALSO REFERRED TO GIRM'S INTEREST IN HAVING SPAIN
PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN MAURITANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ON BASIS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: MOUKNASS' COMMENT ABOUT GIRM'S VIEWS ON SPANISH
SAHARA REFLECT CONCILIATORY LINE DESCRIBED IN REFAIR. AGAINST
BACKDROP OF CONTINUING SPANISH AID TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREA OF
SAHARA, OFFICIAL CHARACTER OF VISIT AND GOS DECORATION OF MOUK-
NASS WITH ORDER OF ISABEL ALSO ILLUSTRATE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE
IN GOS-GIRM TIES. PRESENCE OF LEADING OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON BOTH SIDES IN WORKING SESSIONS
SUGGESTS THAT SPAIN HAS BEEN ASKED TO INVIGORATE ITS AID PRO-
GRAM TO MAURITANIA.

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